

### C. G. L. GOODING, 1896-1980

On 12 January, 1980, Mr Charles George Llewellyn Gooding of Warragul, Victoria, died at the age of 83. One of Australia's best known amateur entomologists, Llew Gooding was born near Moe, Victoria, on 9 September, 1896, one of a family of ten children, and lived throughout his long life in Gippsland. In 1926 he married Hilda Nadenbausch and the couple had one daughter, Mrs Margaret Coulson of Traralgon. He became a very successful dairy farmer in the Moe district and, despite serious setbacks caused by the 1934 drought and the 1939 bushfires, built up a valuable stud herd of Australian Illawarra Shorthorn cattle which he ran on his property "Riversleigh Park". Upon retirement in 1954 he built a home in Warragul.

As a young man Llew Gooding began what was to become a superb collection of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, much of which was collected in Gippsland before the region was extensively cleared for agriculture or devoted to open-cut mining and associated industrial and urban development. His early collecting was done on foot or on horseback and it was not until 1928 that he was able to utilise a motorcar for transport. Throughout his life he had the unfailing support of his wife, Hilda.

Over the years his collection was greatly amplified by exchanging specimens with many well known collectors in Australia and overseas. His Australian entomological correspondence began in 1917 with George Lyell and he continued corresponding with many such collectors throughout his life. His overseas correspondents included some in Britain, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Spain, Argentina, California and Japan, and he also had contacts at various missions in India, China, Taiwan and the Pacific islands.

Llew Gooding specialized in collecting the Hepialidae, a family of primitive moths for which Australia is noted, and worked closely with Dr N. B. Tindale who described many species based on specimens collected by Gooding in the Moe district. Tindale's association with Gooding extended over a period of some 50 years and included several memorable visits to the Gooding property. Their friendship began on a showery afternoon in February 1929, at the peak of the emergence period of several Gippsland hepialids, when Gooding met Tindale at the Moe railway station with his wagon and, during the leisurely trip to "Riversleigh Park", pointed out hundreds of newly emerged hepialid moths hanging from the shrubs and tree trunks. The contribution made by the Goodings to our knowledge of the Hepialidae was recorded in 1935 and 1956 when Tindale named two species discovered near Moe as *Oxycanus goodingi* and *O. hilda* respectively. Tindale again honoured Gooding in 1965 when he described the lycaenid butterfly *Holochila goodingi* (now *Candalides consimilis goodingi*), some of the original specimens of which were from the Gooding collection.

Not only was Llew Gooding an energetic and devoted collector, but he took a special pride in mounting and labelling his specimens meticulously; at times he was moved to reprimand those who sent him inferior or poorly mounted specimens. He was also an accomplished cabinetmaker and constructed all of the 800 store boxes which lined the collection room at his Warragul home. More than 100 store boxes contained his Australian Hepialidae and another 300 boxes his collection of Australian butterflies and other moths. His Coleoptera were contained in about 100 boxes, about one-third of which were Buprestidae, a family in which he took a special interest. The remainder of his collection was exotic Lepidoptera, including examples of many rare species of the *Argynnis* group of genera. In January 1979, when he felt he could no longer maintain his valuable collection to his satisfaction, Llew Gooding donated it to the Commonwealth, and it is now part of the Australian National Insect Collection at Canberra.

Llew Gooding was a respected member of the Masonic Lodge, an office bearer in the Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Country Party for more than 50 years. He was also a keen gardener. For many years he was actively involved in the Latrobe Valley Naturalists' Club and published nine papers on Gippsland butterflies and moths in the *Latrobe Valley Naturalist* between 1968 and 1977, some of which were reprinted in the *Victorian Entomologist*. During the 1930's he provided assistance to G. F. Hill in his field experiments

for CSIR on the control of the underground grass grub, *Oncopera* spp., native hepialid pests of pastures. He was the first person to recognise in 1937 the presence of the cabbage white butterfly *Pieris rapae* in Victoria, two years before its establishment was accepted officially. He was also responsible for the only observations on the life history of *Acrodipsas cuprea*, a small lycaenid butterfly with larvae predacious on ants.

In the Queen's New Year Honours List of 1980, shortly before his death, Llew Gooding was awarded the MBE, for his contributions to entomology, a fitting reward for a lifetime devoted to the collection and study of insects.

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